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ABSTRACT

This book documents the story of Alice Lloyd, a Massachusetts woman who founded Caney Creek Community Center and Caney Junior College (now Alice Lloyd College) in eastern Kentucky during the early 20th century. For the past 70 years, the college has enabled thousands of students from Appalachia to obtain a college education at little or no cost. Chapter 1 presents the principal themes of the book, including the charge that outsiders who came to the Appalachian mountains accomplished very little in improving the quality of life there and were motivated by self-interest. This chapter also overviews current Appalachian scholarship. Chapter 2 examines Lloyd's New England years as she established herself as an innovative, ambitious journalist and entrepreneur. Chapter 3 discusses Lloyd's move to Kentucky and her initial attempts at broad-based community development, abandoned after discouraging experiences with local leadership. Chapters 4-6 deal with the college: its beginnings, its mission, faculty and staff, and the student body who benefited from its presence. Chapter 7 concentrates on the success the school had in supporting itself over the years through an aggressive program of fundraising; some fundraising appeals were based on mountaineer stereotypes that angered Appalachians. Chapter 8 overviews the college's history from 1962, the year of Lloyd's death at age 86, to 1982, a period during which the school underwent great change. During this time, the school's physical plant was transformed into a modern college campus, the institution dealt with student demands for a liberated social code, the conflict between the new and the traditional almost destroyed the college in the mid-1970s, and Alice Lloyd College emerged as a 4-year college in the early 1980s. The last chapter disputes themes discussed in the first chapter and concludes that many outsiders who came to the mountains, including Alice Lloyd, did much to improve the quality of life in Appalachia. Includes a bibliography, photographs, and an index. (LP)